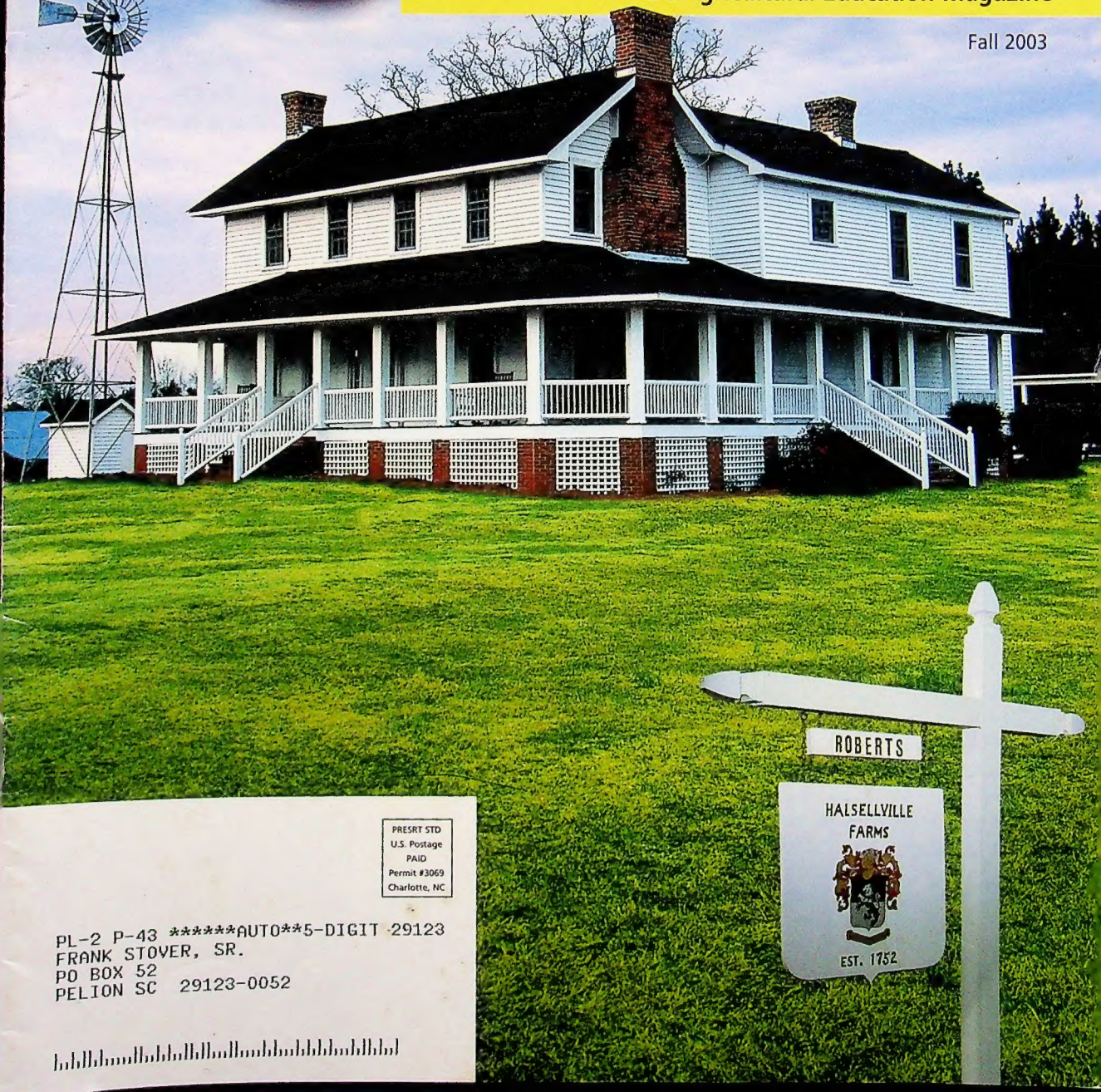


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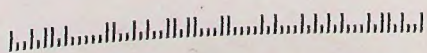
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Fall 2003



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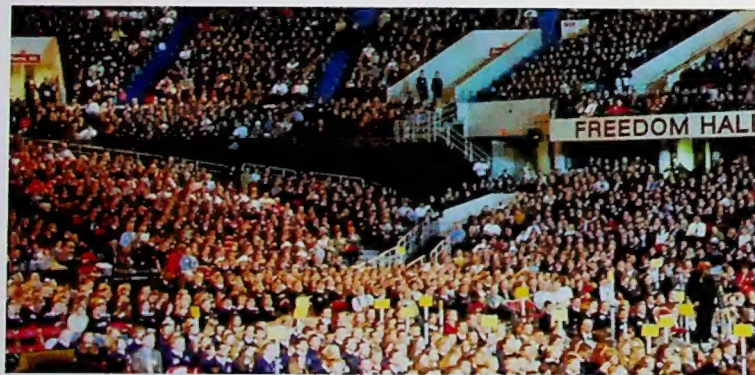
Halsellville Farms
After 250 Years



Poinsettias for the Governor's Mansion



Farm Fresh York County
Strawberries at Christmas



More Than 50,000 Attend 2003 National FFA Convention

More Features

Agriculture Class Offered to
Adults by Aiken Teacher

Chapter Officer Leadership
Training Conference

State Fair Scholarships go
to FFA Members

Farm-City Week
Celebration



John W. Parris
Executive Director,
Office of Public Affairs

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FFA Members

Provide Poinsettias and Bows for the Governor's Mansion



FFA members from the Lexington Technology Center grew and delivered poinsettias to decorate the Governor's Mansion in Columbia, S.C., during the Christmas season.

The students were accompanied by **Tommy Harmon**, horticulture teacher and FFA Advisor; **Kenneth W. Lake**, center director; State Commissioner of Agriculture **Charles R. Sharpe**; and **John W. Parris**, State Director, SC FFA Office of Public Affairs.

The group presented the plants to Mrs. Jenny Sanford, the first lady of

South Carolina, who gave them a tour of the mansion.

Lexington FFA members, above from left, **Ryan Greene**, **Preston Rikard**, **Rebekkah Roof** and **Collin Amick**, with **Tommy Harmon**, Commissioner **Sharpe**, **Jenny Sanford** and **Aaron Goss**, **Jacob Powers**, **Brian Busby** and **Austin Hill**, display the poinsettias.

Florence Career Center FFA members and horticulture teacher **Joan Alexander** made and delivered the large, beautiful bows used on the entrance gates and doors to the Governor's Mansion.





Chester FFA Alumnus Restores 207-Year-Old Home on Family Farm

Nestled atop a forested red clay knoll in southwestern Chester County near the northwest corner of Fairfield County is the beautiful Halsellville Farm Home. The home was built in 1797 and is located on a portion of an original land grant donated by the King of England to the Estes family in the mid-1700s. The farmhouse has been restored by Dr. John E. Roberts III, a descendent of the original owner of an adjacent land grant in 1752. Roberts, the owner and manager of Halsellville Farms, resides in the impressive home he rebuilt and refurbished with antique furniture handed down by his ancestors in the Roberts, Halsell, McClintock, Stevenson, Wagers, Clark and Estes families.

The home, located at 1652 Halsellville Road, has all-wood walls restored as in the original house. The foundation and wall structure are all built from hand-hewn logs, with the ax scoring still present. The eight fireplaces are restored with bricks from the hearths of the old Roberts, Clark and McClintock homes, which are no longer standing except for their chimneys.

Attractively displayed in the den is a spinning wheel that belonged to Roberts' great-great-grandmother, Jane Halsell. The home has two parlors, one for women and another for men, as was the custom in that era. A windmill located near the home, which provided water to the farm and home for many years, is still in use.

From its beginning, Halsellville Farms was a self-sufficient entity. Cotton was the primary source of income. Sawmills were used to produce lumber for farm use and for market. All the feed for the animals was produced on the farm, as was most of the food for the family and farm laborers.

The original owner of the farm, Nicholas Roberts, received in 1752 a land grant from the King of England of substantial acreage between the eastern and western forks of the Little River in upstate South Carolina. The river begins in the southwestern edge of Chester County and forms the boundary of Fairfield and Richland counties to the southwest. The Halsell family also received a large land grant in the same community, along with the Estes family mentioned previously.

Home ~ continued on page 5

The Halsellville Farm Home is featured in a 2001 movie filmed in Chester County and titled "The Ghost at Grandma's House." Willis Crain of Chester, S.C., a former

state president of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, starred in the movie.



“The fireplaces are restored with bricks from the hearths of the Roberts, Clark and McClintock homes.

Attractively displayed in the living room is a spinning wheel that belonged to Roberts' great-great-grandmother, Jane Halsell.”



FFA Alumnus John E. Roberts III, PhD



John E. Roberts III was born on the nearby Elbert Roberts family farm, which is now included in Halsellville Farms. He attended Blackstock School from 1954 until 1962 and graduated from Chester High School in 1966. While in high school, Roberts took agricultural education courses taught by John W. Parris and

was active in the FFA Association. He competed in a number of career development events, including being a member of the State FFA runner-up Livestock Judging Team in 1964.

Roberts graduated from Clemson University in 1970 with his B.S. degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. He received his M.A. degree in biology and education from The Citadel and his PhD in education administration from the University of South Carolina.

After graduating from Clemson University, Roberts served a three-year tour of active duty in the U.S. Army. His overseas assignments included Germany, Vietnam and

Korea. He later joined the South Carolina National Guard, from which he retired as a colonel. He is a veteran of both Vietnam and Desert Storm.

The owner of a 1,000-acre farm, he raises Hereford and Charolais beef cattle for crossbreeding. He is assistant principal at Chester County's Student Assistant Center, where he also teaches math and science.

Roberts has been named the Outstanding Conservation Teacher in Chester County by the Chester Conservation District Board of Commissioners and Outstanding Conservation Educator in South Carolina by the State Association of Conservation Districts. In 2003, his students won the first-place award in the Conservation Bulletin Board competition in three grade levels, in addition to their winning essays at the sixth- and seventh-grade levels.

AgriBiz! proudly salutes Dr. John E. Roberts III of Chester, S.C., as one of South Carolina's Outstanding FFA Alumni who continues to demonstrate the real meaning of the FFA Association.

South Carolinians Receive National FFA Awards



David Winkles, president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, with **J.J. Jones**, National FFA Vice President.

Honorary American FFA Degrees

David M. Winkles Jr. of Sumter, S.C., president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, was awarded the Honorary American FFA Degree during the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., on October 31, 2003.

Other recipients of this prestigious award include Gary Goodman, general manager of the South Carolina State Fair, Columbia, S.C., and James Ulmer, agricultural education teacher at Elloree High School, Elloree, S.C.

The Honorary American FFA Degree recognizes those who have gone beyond their valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary, long-term difference in the lives of students by inspiring them to achieve greatness in an agricultural career.



National FFA VIP Award

John W. Parris of Columbia, S.C., State Director of the SC FFA Office of Public Affairs, received the National FFA Organization's VIP Award for his exemplary efforts in promoting FFA and agricultural education at the state and national levels.



Gary Goodman, general manager of the South Carolina State Fair, and **J.J. Jones**.



James Ulmer, agricultural education teacher at Elloree High School, with **J.J. Jones**.



John W. Parris, State Director of the SC FFA Office of Public Affairs.

South Carolina Students Awarded the American FFA Degree

National FFA Week
February 21-28, 2004

Six South Carolina students were awarded the American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention on November 1, 2003. This is the highest award presented to FFA members by the 460,000-member organization.

Recipients of this prestigious award included Kyle P. Hatcher, a Past President of the SC FFA Association, Crescent FFA Chapter; Jaime Marie Rivers, a past Vice

President of the SC FFA Association, McBee FFA Chapter; Daniel R. Griffin, Central FFA Chapter; Barbara Gwen Rogers, West Oak FFA Chapter; Matthew Lutton, Crescent FFA Chapter; and Zachary Dyer, Indian Land FFA Chapter.

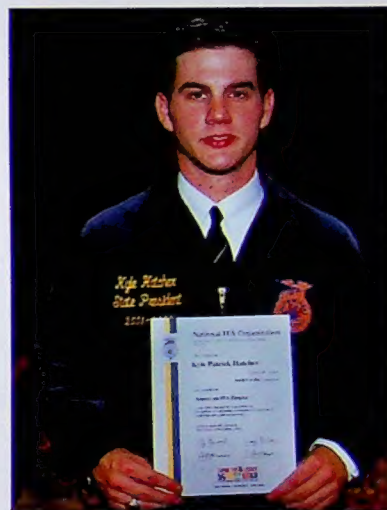
Hatcher, Rivers, Griffin, Lutton and Rogers are majoring in agriculture at Clemson University. Dyer is a student at York Technical College.



Zachary Dyer



Daniel R. Griffin



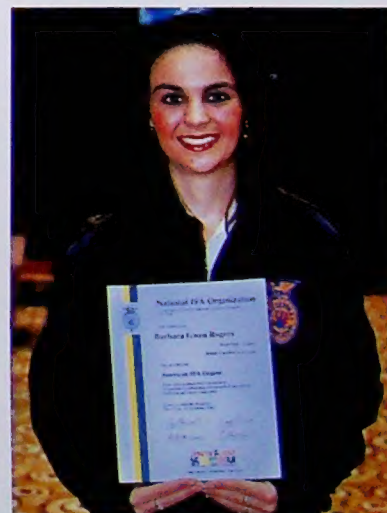
Kyle P. Hatcher



Matthew Lutton



Jaime Marie Rivers



Barbara Gwen Rogers

Teams, Individuals Among

The Strom Thurmond Technology Center FFA Forestry Team, a Gold Emblem Award winner, placed sixth in the nation at the National FFA Convention, and team member Richard Miller was awarded a \$500 scholarship.

The Strom Thurmond FFA Nursery-Landscape Team, also a Gold Emblem Award recipient, placed 10th in the nation. Hugh Bland, agricultural education teacher, is the Advisor to the two teams.

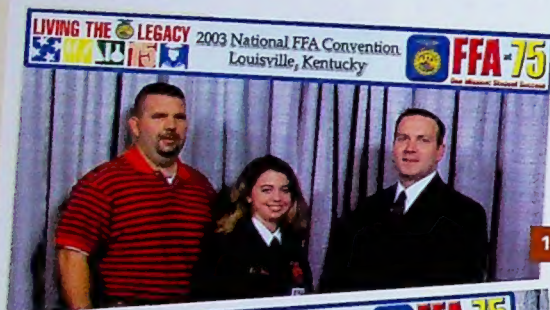
The Manning FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team, a Gold Emblem Award winner, was one of the top 12 teams in the nation. Michael Haynes, agricultural education teacher at Manning High School, is Team Advisor.

Travelers Rest FFA member Lisa Bayne was a Gold Emblem Award winner and one of the top 10 finalists in the National Dairy Handlers competition. Jason Wigington, agricultural education teacher, is her FFA Advisor.

Strom Thurmond FFA member Matt Robinson was one of 10 national finalists in the Tractor Restoration competition. His FFA Advisors are Dan Henderson and Hugh Bland.

Fourteen other teams and individuals represented the South Carolina FFA Association in various national finals.

1. *Travelers Rest FFA member Lisa Bayne with Jason Wigington, left, and a sponsor representative.*
2. *Strom Thurmond FFA Forestry Team Advisor and members, from left, Hugh Bland, Bettis Rainsford, Aaron Ingle, Richard Miller and Chris Allen.*
3. *Strom Thurmond FFA Nursery-Landscape Team Advisor and members, from left, Hugh Bland, Drew Cheatham, Trish Cheatham, Darla Simons and Rhiannon Rainsford.*
4. *Manning FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team Advisor and members, from left, Michael Haynes, Chandra Plowden, Megan Bryant, Ashley King, Tameka Mellerson, Brittany Marcellin, Courtney Evans and Emily Woodward.*



1.



2.



3.



4.

Top in Nation

More Highlights of the National FFA Convention

Robinson is National Finalist in Tractor Restoration

5. **Matt Robinson**, a senior at Strom Thurmond High School and a member of its FFA Chapter, was named one of 10 national finalists in the Chevron-sponsored Tractor Restoration competition during the National FFA Convention.



6. The Belton-Honea Path FFA Chapter officers represented the SC FFA Association as official delegates at a session of the National FFA Convention. Chapter officers are shown with their FFA Advisor, **Glenn Stevens**.
7. **Allison Waggoner**, State FFA Secretary, presents the South Carolina box for the National FFA Time Capsule on behalf of the SC FFA Association. The capsule is scheduled to be opened during the 100th National FFA Convention.
8. **Ashley Granata** of Pickens, S.C., a student at Clemson University majoring in agriculture and a member of the Collegiate FFA organization, announced her candidacy for a National FFA Officer position during the National FFA Convention.

McCormick and Lemon Entertain at National Convention

9. McBee FFA member **Doug McCormick** and Manning FFA member **Andre Lemon** represented South Carolina in the National FFA Talent Revue during the National FFA Convention.

SC FFA Association Receives National Recognition for Membership Increase

10. **John A. Lesaine Jr.**, third from left, President of the SC FFA Association, shows State FFA Officers the plaque he received in recognition of South Carolina's increased FFA membership. State Officers, from left, **Alex Gleason**, **Allison Waggoner**, **Rachel McLeod**, **Bryan Lowman** and **Lauren Holden**.



South Carolina FFA Teams/Individuals Compete in National Finals

- Agricultural Issues
Calhoun Falls
- Agricultural Mechanics
York
- Agronomy
Strom Thurmond
- Creed
Sara Harrington/Manning
- Dairy Foods
Pendleton
- Dairy Evaluation
York
- Dairy Handlers
Lisa Bayne/Travelers Rest
- Environmental and Natural Resources
Loris
- Extemporaneous Speaking
Laura Watkins/Pendleton
- Farm Business Management
Creek Bridge
- Floriculture
Aiken
- Forestry
Strom Thurmond
- Horse
Anderson
- Livestock
Indian Land
- Nursery-Landscape
Strom Thurmond
- Parliamentary Procedure
Manning
- Poultry
Indian Land
- Prepared Public Speaking
Allison Waggoner/Pendleton

SC FFA Chapters Receive National Recognition

Seven South Carolina FFA Chapters were recognized with a Gold Star Award during the National FFA Convention. The chapters include Aiken, **Joe Wilson**, Advisor; Belton-Honea Path, **Glenn Stevens**, Advisor; Crescent, **David Nixon** and **Chris Corzine**, Advisors; Laurens, **Melanie Birchmore**, Advisor; Loris, **Ben Hardee**, Advisor; Manning, **Michael Haynes**, Advisor; and McBee, **W. Pat Earle**, Advisor.

2003 FFA Chapter Officer Leadership Training Conference



FFA members and advisors from Oconee to Beaufort counties and many counties in between attended the State FFA Chapter Officer Leadership Training Conference, planned and conducted by the State FFA Officer Team and held at the White Oak Conference Center near Winnsboro, S.C., on September 27, 2003. The conference was arranged and coordinated by John W. Parris, State Director of the SC FFA Office of Public Affairs.

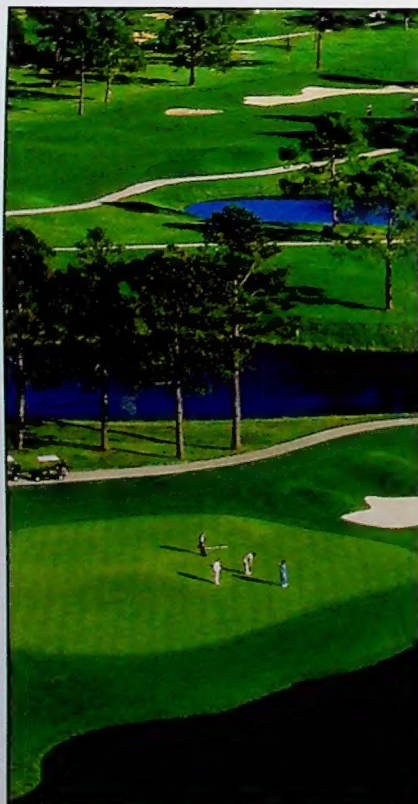
Abi Brumbles, an officer of the Latta FFA Chapter, was selected as the conference's outstanding participant and was awarded an opportunity to be the guest of **Dr. John Kelly**, Clemson University Vice



FFA at 75
One Mission: Student Success



President, in the Public Service and Agriculture Box at the Clemson-Duke football game. The box is sponsored by agricultural-related businesses to provide Clemson officials an opportunity to recognize leaders like Abi at home football games.



Myrtle Beach FFA Chapter Golf Tournament

Myrtlewood Golf Club

January 31, 2004

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Carolina Forest High School, 700 Gardner Lacy Rd.
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South Carolina FFA Day at the State Fair

Hundreds of SC FFA members visited the South Carolina State Fair October 2-12, 2003, but SC FFA Day — October 8 — brought a record attendance. More than 600 chapter officers, members and advisors overflowed the FFA Awards and Recognition Luncheon, held at the Williams-Brice Stadium, while hundreds more visited the fair. The luncheon program, presided over by State FFA President John A. Lesaine Jr., included musical presentations by McBee FFA member Doug McCormick and Manning FFA member Andre Lemon. State FFA Vice President Rachel McLeod and State FFA

Secretary Allison Waggoner introduced guests and recognized state career development event winners.

Gary Goodman, general manager of the S.C. State Fair, addressed attendees and praised FFA members for their support of the State Fair. Charles R. Sharpe, state commissioner of agriculture, announced the Commissioner's School at Clemson University in the summer of 2004. Dr. Tom Dobbins, program coordinator of agricultural education at Clemson University and superintendent of the livestock department at the State Fair, also addressed the group.



Gary Goodman, left, with Dr. Tom Dobbins of Clemson University.



John A. Lesaine Jr., left, with Commissioner Sharpe, Rachel McLeod and Allison Waggoner.

Farm-City Week Kickoff Celebrations



FARM-CITY®

Members of the State FFA Officer Team made a special effort to be part of the observance of Farm-City Week in South Carolina in November 2003. Their participation was a big hit and resulted in considerable media coverage.



Alex Gleason, State FFA Vice President, with State Senator Nikki Setzler, left, Brandy Collins, president of the Batesburg-Leesville FFA Chapter, and Representative Larry Koon at the Lexington County Farm-City Kickoff Banquet in Batesburg-Leesville, S.C.



State FFA President John A. Lesaine Jr. with Joe Pinner and Susan Aude, WIS-TV celebrities, at the Richland County Farm-City Week Kickoff Luncheon in Columbia, S.C.

SC FFA Members Win Farm Bureau Scholarships at State Fair

FFA members took all the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation-sponsored college scholarships during the 2003 South Carolina State Fair. Competition for the scholarships may vary somewhat, but generally includes submitting a scholarship application, demonstrating showmanship skills, taking a written exam and undergoing an interview with an animal scientist.

Will Taylor of Honea Path, S.C., a senior at Belton-Honea Path High School and president of its FFA Chapter, was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship in the Junior Beef category by David Winkles, president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation.

John Nixon of Anderson, S.C., a member of the Anderson FFA Chapter and a student at Clemson University majoring in agricultural education, was also awarded a \$2,500 scholarship in the Junior Beef category.

Allison Nance of McConnells, S.C., a member of the York FFA Chapter and a student at Clemson University majoring in agricultural education, was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship in the Junior Swine category. Reggie Hall, director of communications with the S.C. Farm Bureau, presented the check to Allison.

Jesse Miskelly of York, S.C., also a member of the York FFA Chapter and a student at Clemson University majoring in agriculture, was presented with a \$2,000 scholarship in the Junior Dairy category by Reggie Hall.



From left, scholarship winner **Will Taylor** with State Vice President **Alex Gleason** and **David Winkles**, president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation.



From left, scholarship winner **John Nixon** with State Vice President **Alex Gleason** and **David Winkles**, president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation.



Scholarship winner **Allison Nance** with **Reggie Hall**, director of communications with the S.C. Farm Bureau.



Jesse Miskelly with his scholarship check.

Agriculture Class Offered to Adults by Aiken Teacher

by Rob Novit

Dozens of adult gardening enthusiasts are going back to school each year — Aiken High School, that is.

Off and on for the past quarter-century, horticulture teacher Joe Wilson has offered a weekly program for adults with a few field trips thrown in.

"Agriculture teachers are an integral part of the community," said Wilson. "We just wanted to meet community needs."

He started out with a spring semester class, but in recent years has expanded to fall and spring, with some summer projects, too.

"I used to teach every class myself," said Wilson. "But since Dan Racki and some other key individuals have gotten involved, we've had more and more people to do programs."

A mechanical engineer, Racki moved to Aiken five years ago. He and his wife, Nancy, soon enrolled in Wilson's class.

"My parents forced me to garden when I was young," Racki said with a laugh. "I liked it, but you can't tell your parents you like something. We started helping Joe about three years ago. He still runs it, but we try to make it easy for him, with all the classes, fairs and contests he does with his kids. We just arrange it and set it up."

At an earlier class, some of Wilson's high school students joined the adults to provide assistance in making Christmas wreaths. Senior Josh O'Rear provided a few pointers to Mary Blackwell, among others.

"It is neat to have students help us out," said Blackwell. "Josh did a good job. I just find the entire course so interesting. I enjoy working with plants, and my husband and I do a garden each year for our own use."

The best part of FFA, said O'Rear, is running the greenhouse and working with people.

"They're always so nice and cheerful," he said. "It's fun showing them how to do stuff."

Over both semesters, the participants are being introduced to a number of speakers. Among them this fall were Jeff and Dee Jameson, who discussed irises and cannas, and Barbara Armitage, who demonstrated pine cone basket making.

In the next semester starting in January,

Tony Mills will present

a program on backyard wildlife. Harry Doswell will discuss hands-on irrigation, and Steve Arthur will explain tissue culture.

Racki said the course provides overall instruction in learning how to garden and grow trees, plants and everything else in South Carolina. Some of the class members are longtime Aiken residents, but others, like Racki, are from the North.

"It's snowing in Pittsburgh," he said. "Here, it's warm, and it's a different climate for a lot of us."

But the real pleasure, he said, is meeting people. Many of the participants are repeaters, and it's like a homecoming each semester, said

Racki. They do a lot of community projects and work with Wilson's students on Earth Day.

"Joe really inspires us," said Racki. "He's just a tremendous person, and I don't think people know how much he does for the area."

Wilson said he appreciates the opportunity to work with adults and with his teenage students. Over the years, several have returned for his adult program, and he always jokes with them.

"I ask them why they didn't learn enough as a regular student," he said.



No generation gap here: **Mary Blackwell**, a horticulture evening class participant at Aiken High School, gets pointers on making Christmas wreaths from **Josh O'Rear**, a senior horticulture student and FFA member.

Farm Fresh York County Strawberries at Christmas



Bob Hall, left, with his son, Samuel, and Frank Sandifer.

Bob Hall and his family, owners and operators of Bush-N-Vine Farms near York, S.C., grow and market fresh-from-the-field strawberries in the fall up to Christmas and again in the spring from the same plants. The family utilizes special horticulture techniques and certain varieties to produce top-quality berries during both seasons.

Hall's initial experience with drip irrigation and black plastic mulch was an on-farm demonstration in 1980 in concert with the S.C. Land Resources Commission, which was headed by John W. Parris, a pioneer in the promotion of this conservation technology.

"We have 7 acres of strawberries on black plastic and drip irrigation. Once we get through picking berries in the spring, we plant cantaloupe, watermelon, squash, pumpkins and beans," Hall said. "The following spring, we plant sweet corn, and this translates into 21 acres of crops without disturbing the soil for the final two crops."

This technology conserves water, energy and nutrients.

"I am convinced this technology has done more to enhance produce farming in South Carolina than anything else in the

past 25 years," Hall said. "I doubt we would be in business today had this exciting technology not appeared on the agriculture scene."

Hall and other produce farmers have taken the technology a step further by using the plastic to extend the harvest time. This concept allows the producer to extend their risk further by getting a light crop for eight weeks in the fall and a full crop for six weeks in the spring.

"Specialized farming is a constant learning process and must be approached with excitement as we plan for the next year and the future," Hall said.

Bob's son, Samuel, is a student at York High School, where he is a member of the York Technology Center FFA Chapter. According to Frank Sandifer, agricultural education teacher at the center, Samuel is as interested and excited about this unique farming operation as anyone else in his family.

National Agriculture Week • March 14-20, 2004
Highlighted by National Agriculture Day
March 20, 2004

Spotlighting More South Carolina FFA Members

Kennedy Choate, a senior at Indian Land High School, where she is an active member of the school's FFA Chapter, was elected Commissioner of Agriculture in South Carolina at Girls State in Columbia, S.C., last summer. She will be attending Clemson University this fall, where she will major in agriculture.

Peter Wilson, a senior at Chester High School, where he is President of the school's FFA Chapter, was selected one of South Carolina's Outstanding Young Entrepreneurs by the South Carolina Council on Economic Education at the University of South Carolina and was featured on a SC ETV program. The program was shown to high school students throughout the state in 2003. Here, he is interviewed by ETV staff at his farm, where he grows more than 20,000 pumpkins and sells them at the family farm roadside market near Lowrys, S.C.

Andy Burdette, a member of the R.D. Anderson Technology Center FFA Chapter near Spartanburg, S.C., displays one of the many grand champion ribbons he won showing swine in the fall. He showed the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Spotted boar and gilt at the South Carolina State Fair. He also showed the Grand Champion Hampshire boar, the Reserve Champion Hampshire gilt, the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Yorkshire boars.

He was Senior Champion Showman and Grand Champion Showman in the Swine competition at the State Fair. At the Upper State Fair, he had the Champion Spotted gilt, the Champion Hampshire gilt, the Champion Crossbred gilt and Reserve Champion Crossbred gilt.

A freshman at Spartanburg Technical College majoring in horticulture, Andy is growing project pigs for FFA and 4-H members throughout the state. He will also grow pigs for FFA members in Florida.

Bryan Lowman, State FFA Vice President, with **Congressman Gresham Barrett** at the Saluda County Pull-It Festival this fall. Lowman and Congressman Barrett rode in the festival parade and addressed a large crowd at the courthouse afterward.

From left, **Chris Moss**, a 2002-2003 State FFA Officer and a sophomore at Clemson University majoring in horticulture, **Rick Varnadoe**, a recent graduate of Clemson University with a master's degree in agricultural education, and **Kyle Hatcher**, a Past President of the SC FFA Association and a junior at Clemson University majoring in agricultural education, were student interns with the SC FFA Office of Public Affairs at the National FFA Convention.



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